

MARVEL

4

LGY#009



MILLIGAN • M. ALLRED • L. ALLRED

THE X-CELLENT

PARENTAL
ADVISORY

ALL
RED

They lived, they loved, they fought and they died...a lot. The mutant team known as X-STATIX rose to celebrity acclaim by showcasing their death-defying missions to the adoring public. But after many missions (and many replacement teammates), the team disbanded, never to be heard from again.

That is, until the daughter of former member U-GO GIRL, Katie Jones, manifested teleportation abilities that attracted not just the survivors of X-Statix, but also a new team of young, eccentric mutants called...

THE X-CELLENT

PREVIOUSLY...

Zeitgeist, the deceased leader of X-Force (now known as the X-Statix), is back! And this time, he's brought with him a team of conniving, cutthroat mutants eager to steal the celebrity spotlight from the X-Statix!

Most recently, the X-Cellent stole a spell from Doctor Strange's *Book of the Vishanti*. With this spell and the use of his social media, Zeitgeist plans to achieve godhood! But Zeitgeist's abusive behavior is starting to turn his team against him. He's already fended off a coup attempt by Mirror Girl, Toodle Pip and the sentient machine, Dox. In the aftermath, Pip is dead, and Dox is seemingly reprogrammed!

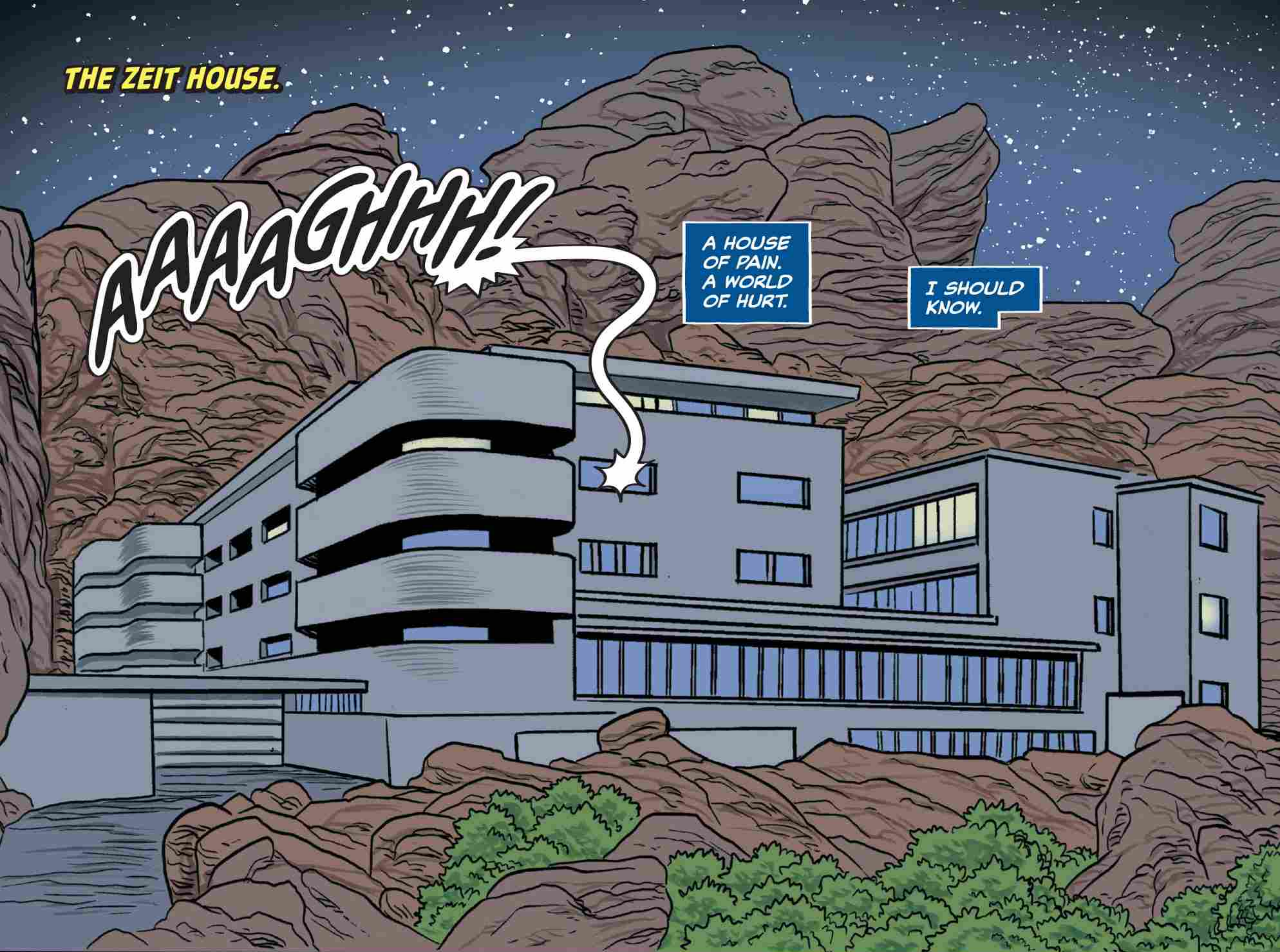
Zeitgeist's ascension is quickly approaching, but who will betray him next?!

UNSOCIAL MEDIA

PART 4

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THE ZEIT HOUSE.



A HOUSE
OF PAIN.
A WORLD
OF HURT.

I SHOULD
KNOW.



I'M
HURT
JOHN.

UGN...
UHGNN...
AAAGG...G...
G...GOLD...

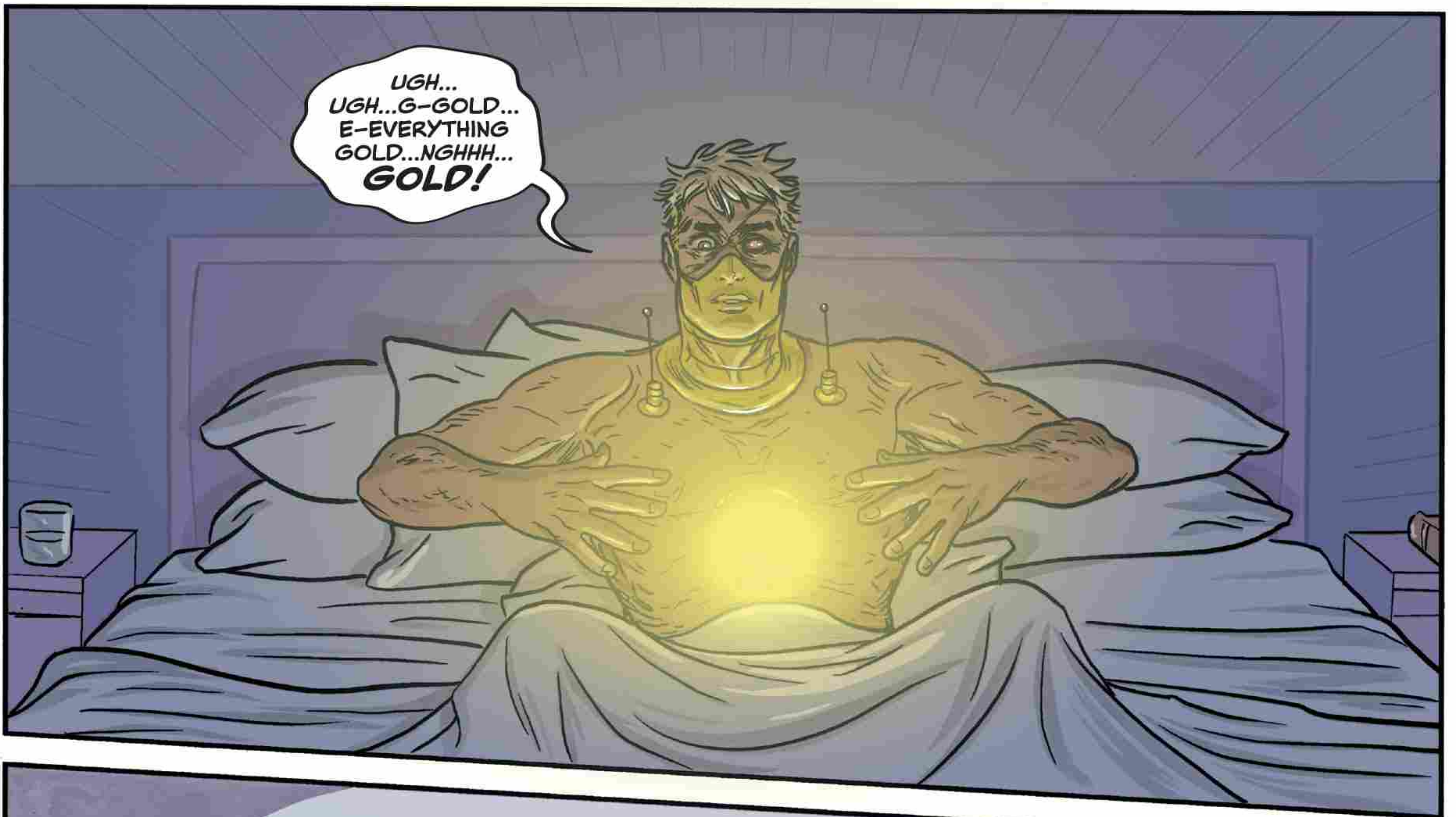
AND ZEITGEIST,
WELL...HE HURTS
MORE THAN MOST.

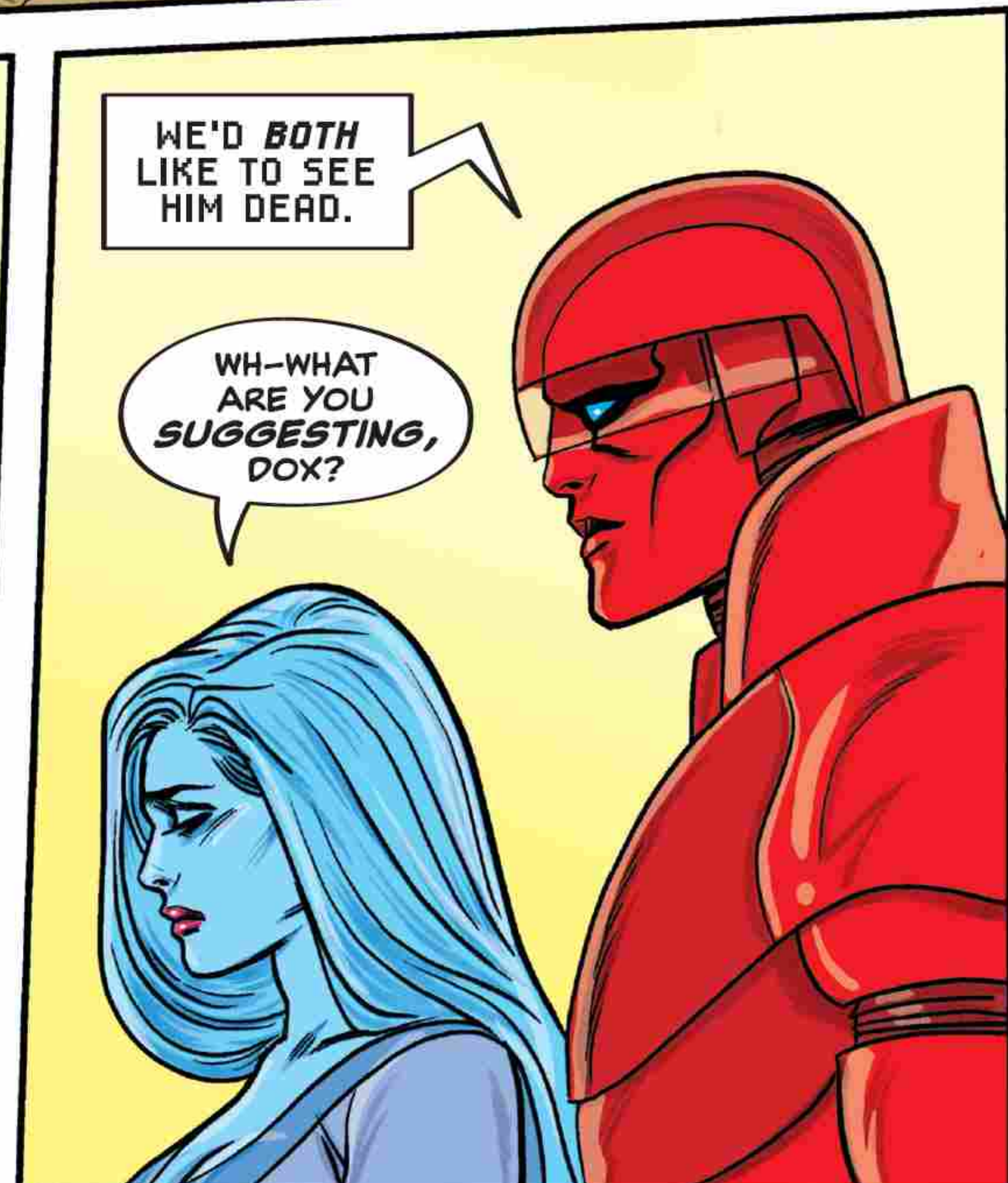
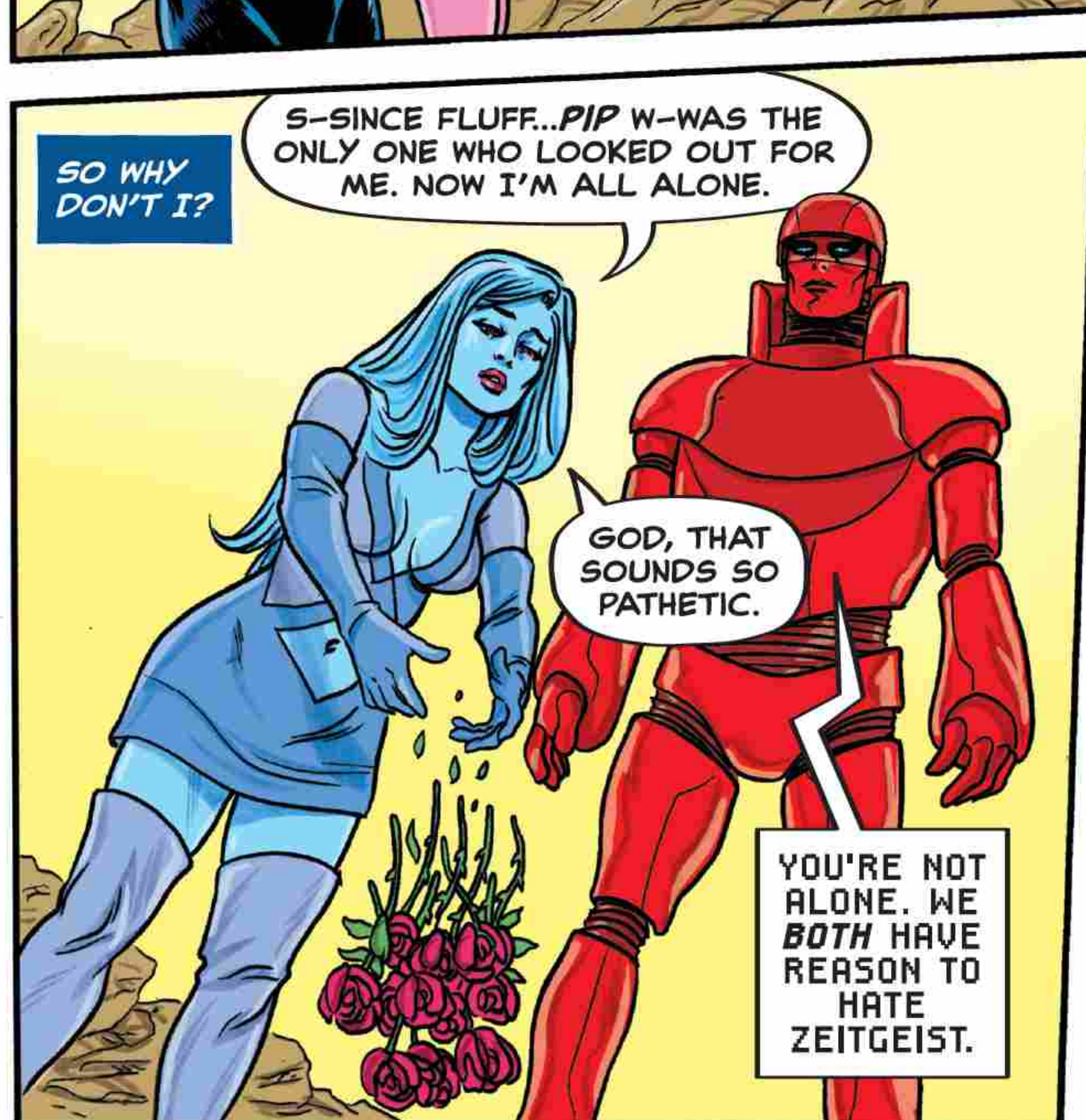
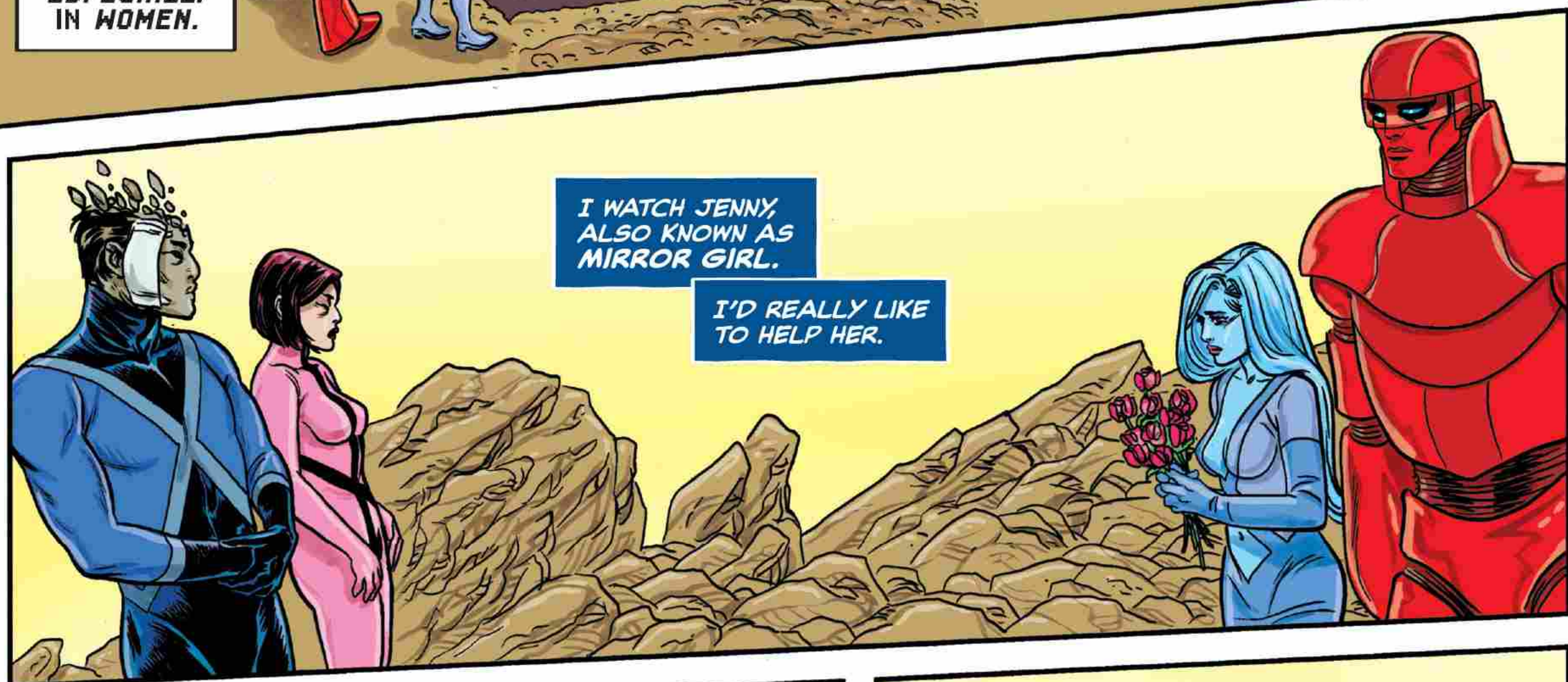
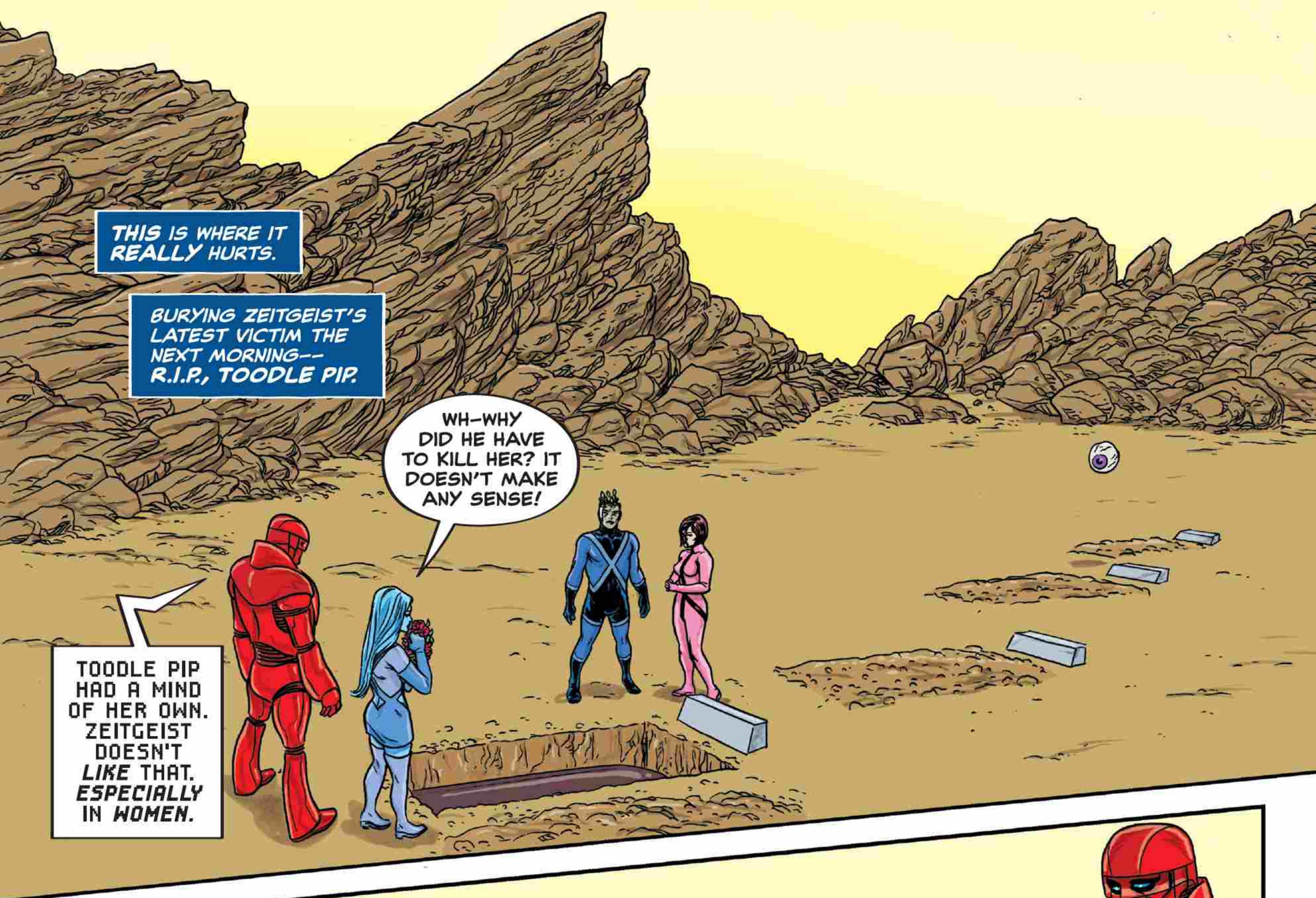


I ENJOY IT FOR
FIVE MINUTES
OR SO, LAPPING
IT UP LIKE THE
FREAK I AM.

I TRY TO
PENETRATE IT.

TRY TO GET A HANDLE ON
EXACTLY WHAT HE'S GOING
THROUGH IN THERE.





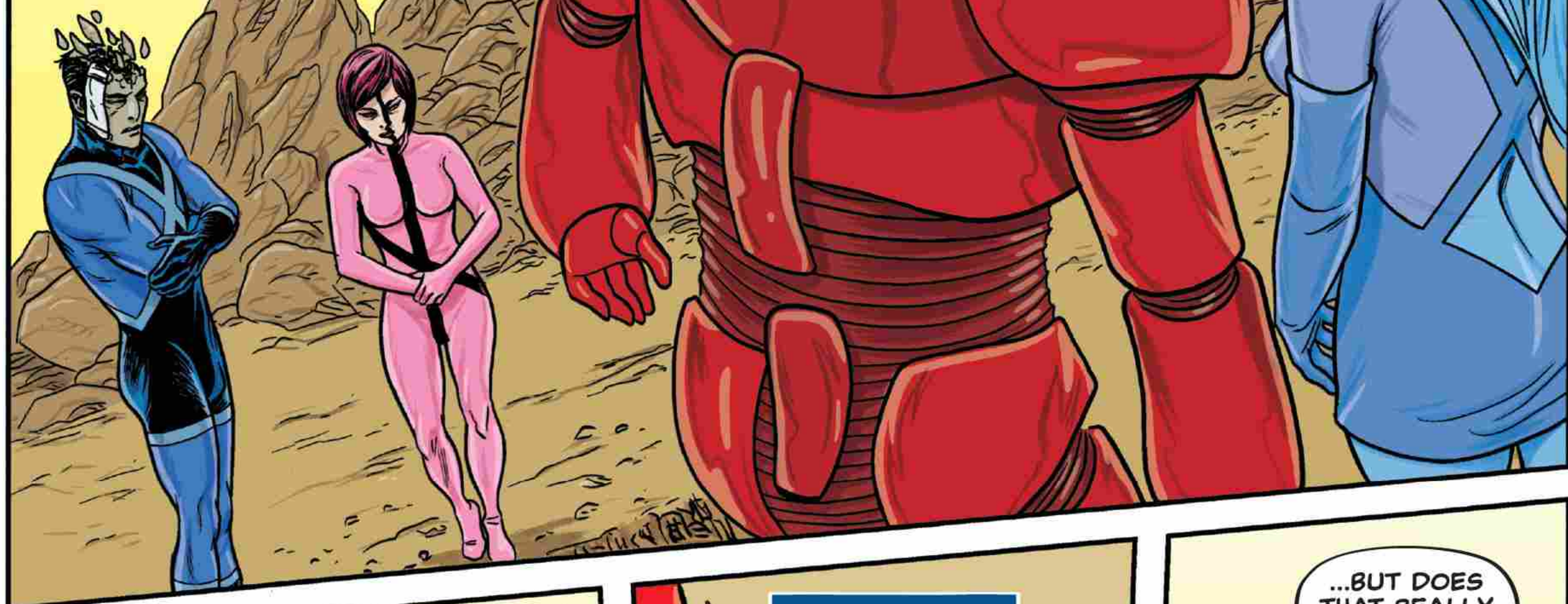
THE TWO OF US--ACTING IN UNISON. ONCE HE'S A GOD, WITH ALL THE *POWERS* OF A GOD, IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE.

YOU KNOW MY FEELINGS TOWARD HIM ARE... COMPLEX.

YOU'RE WEAK. HE HAS YOU IN THRALL TO HIS POWERFUL SEXUAL MAGNETISM.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL BE FREE OF HIM.

WH-WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS? M-MAYBE IF WE ALL ATTACKED HIM...



WELL? WHY WON'T I HELP HER?

FEAR OF GETTING INVOLVED, MAYBE. FEAR OF COMMITMENT.

MOST OF ALL-- YOU GUESSED IT--

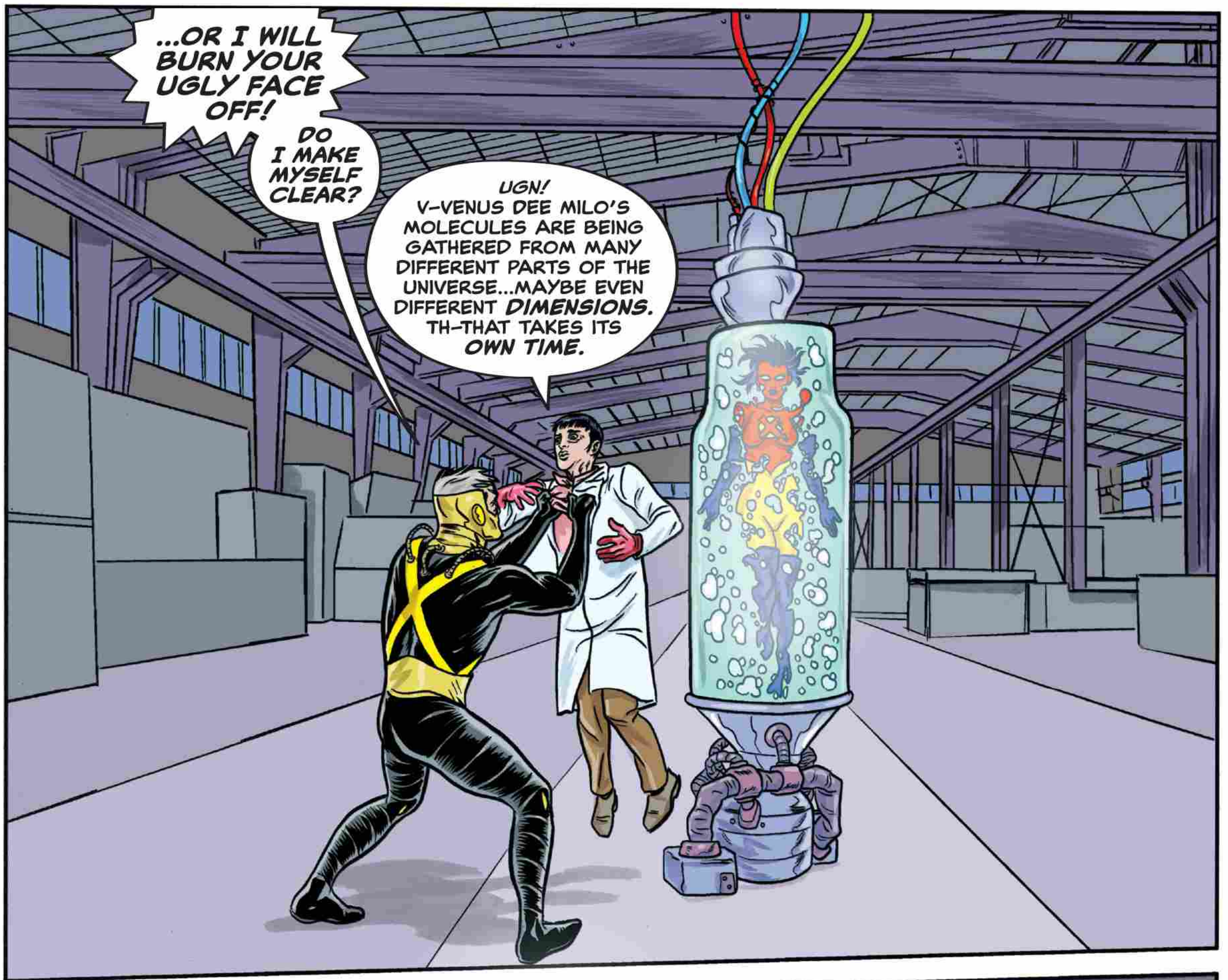
--FEAR OF GETTING HURT.

HURT JOHN AND STRIPE ARE TOO TIMID TO BE ANYTHING BUT LOYAL. IT'S JUST YOU AND ME VERSUS THE TYRANT.

TYRANT? OH, I KNOW ZEITY DOES SOME TERRIBLE THINGS...HE HAS THOSE AWFUL, VIOLENT MOOD SWINGS...

...BUT DOES THAT REALLY MAKE HIM A TYRANT?

"YOU GET YOUR *MATTER MACHINE* TO REASSEMBLE VENUS DEE MILO PRONTO..."



...OR I WILL
BURN YOUR
UGLY FACE
OFF!

DO
I MAKE
MYSELF
CLEAR?

UGH!
V-VENUS DEE MILO'S
MOLECULES ARE BEING
GATHERED FROM MANY
DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE
UNIVERSE...MAYBE EVEN
DIFFERENT *DIMENSIONS*.
TH-THAT TAKES ITS
OWN TIME.



I KILLED TOODLE PIP ON THE UNDERSTANDING
THAT VENUS WOULD BE READY TO TAKE HER
PLACE WITHIN DAYS--

THEN
YOU WERE
WRONG.

GO ON, KILL
ME TOO--THE ONLY
PERSON LEFT WHO KNOWS
HOW TO OPERATE THE
MATTER MACHINE.
THAT'D BE REALLY
SMART.



IF YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO KILL ME,
KINDLY LEAVE MY
WORKSHOP.

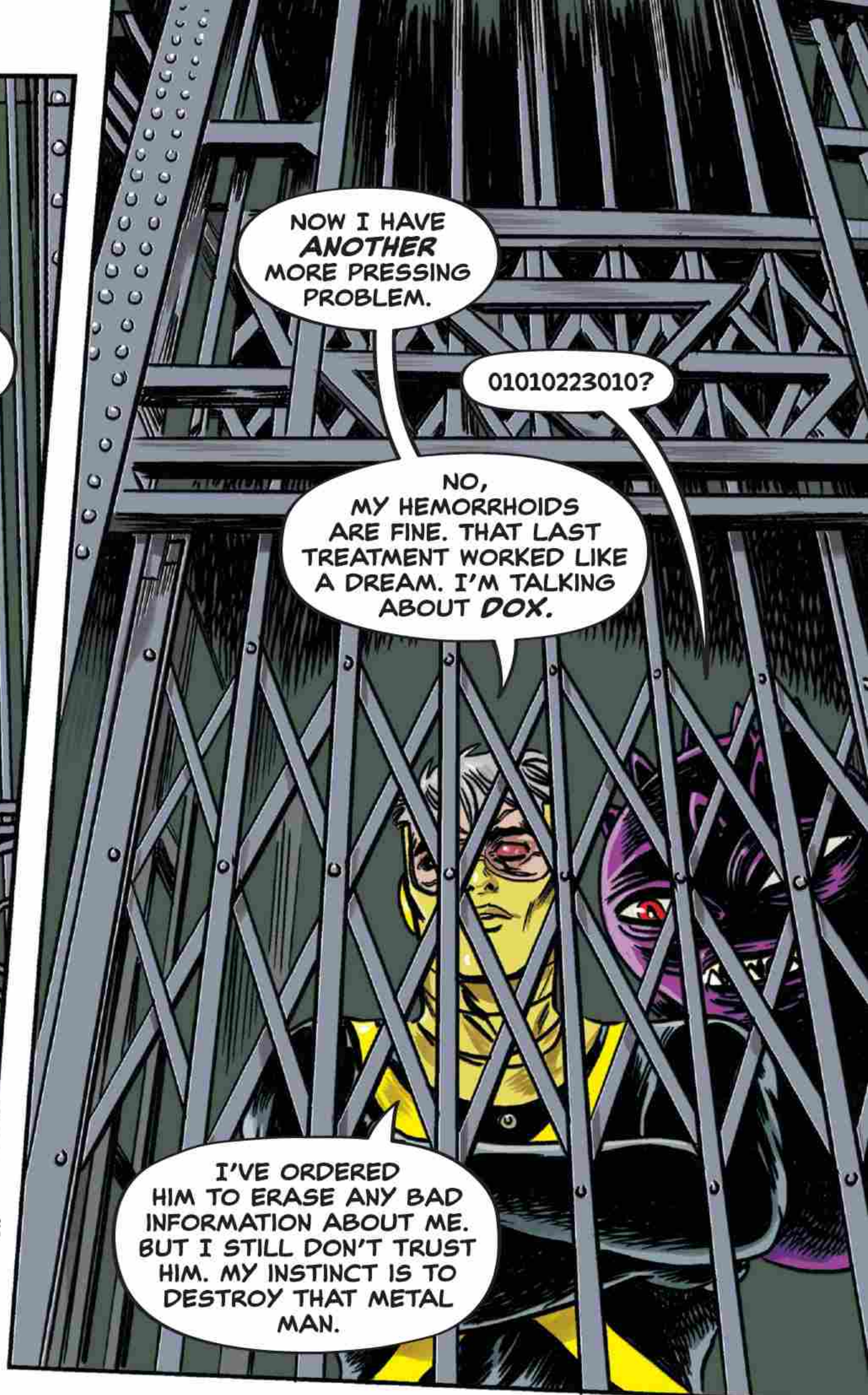


SOME OF
US HAVE
GOT WORK
TO DO.



POOD,
WHEN THIS IS
OVER, REMIND
ME THAT
THAT ENGINEER
IS TO BE
THOROUGHLY
SEEN TO.

2310
10200.



NOW I HAVE
ANOTHER
MORE PRESSING
PROBLEM.

01010223010?

NO,
MY HEMORRHOIDS
ARE FINE. THAT LAST
TREATMENT WORKED LIKE
A DREAM. I'M TALKING
ABOUT *DOX*.

I'VE ORDERED
HIM TO ERASE ANY BAD
INFORMATION ABOUT ME.
BUT I STILL DON'T TRUST
HIM. MY INSTINCT IS TO
DESTROY THAT METAL
MAN.



PROBLEM IS,
I NEED HIM TO
FIND AND SPREAD
DIRT ON X-STATIX,
THEREBY BOOSTING
MY OWN
POPULARITY.

109010001!

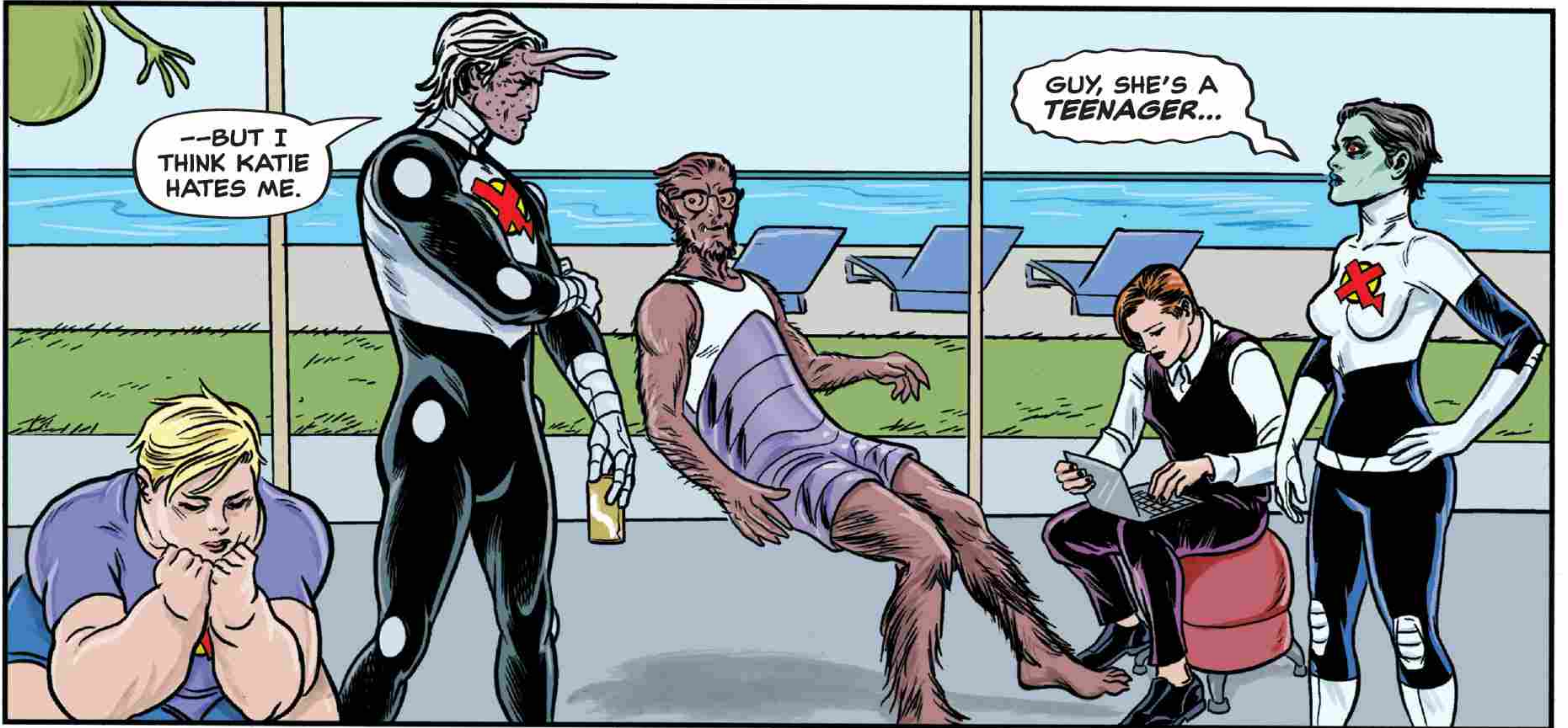
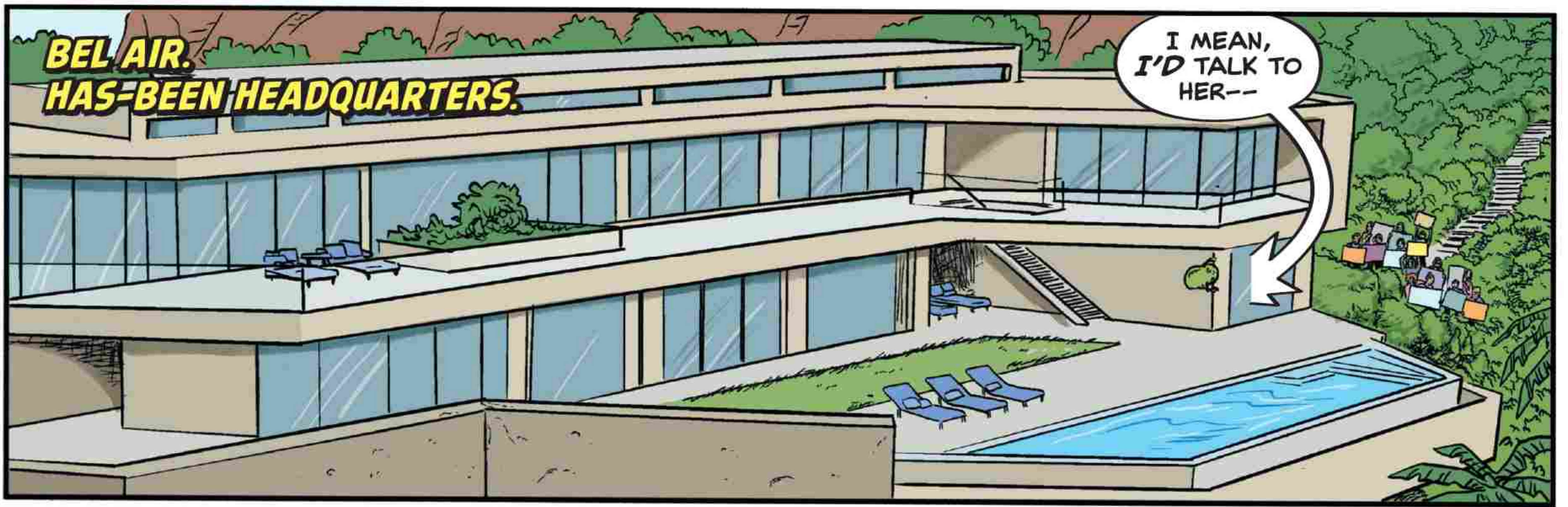
HMM?!

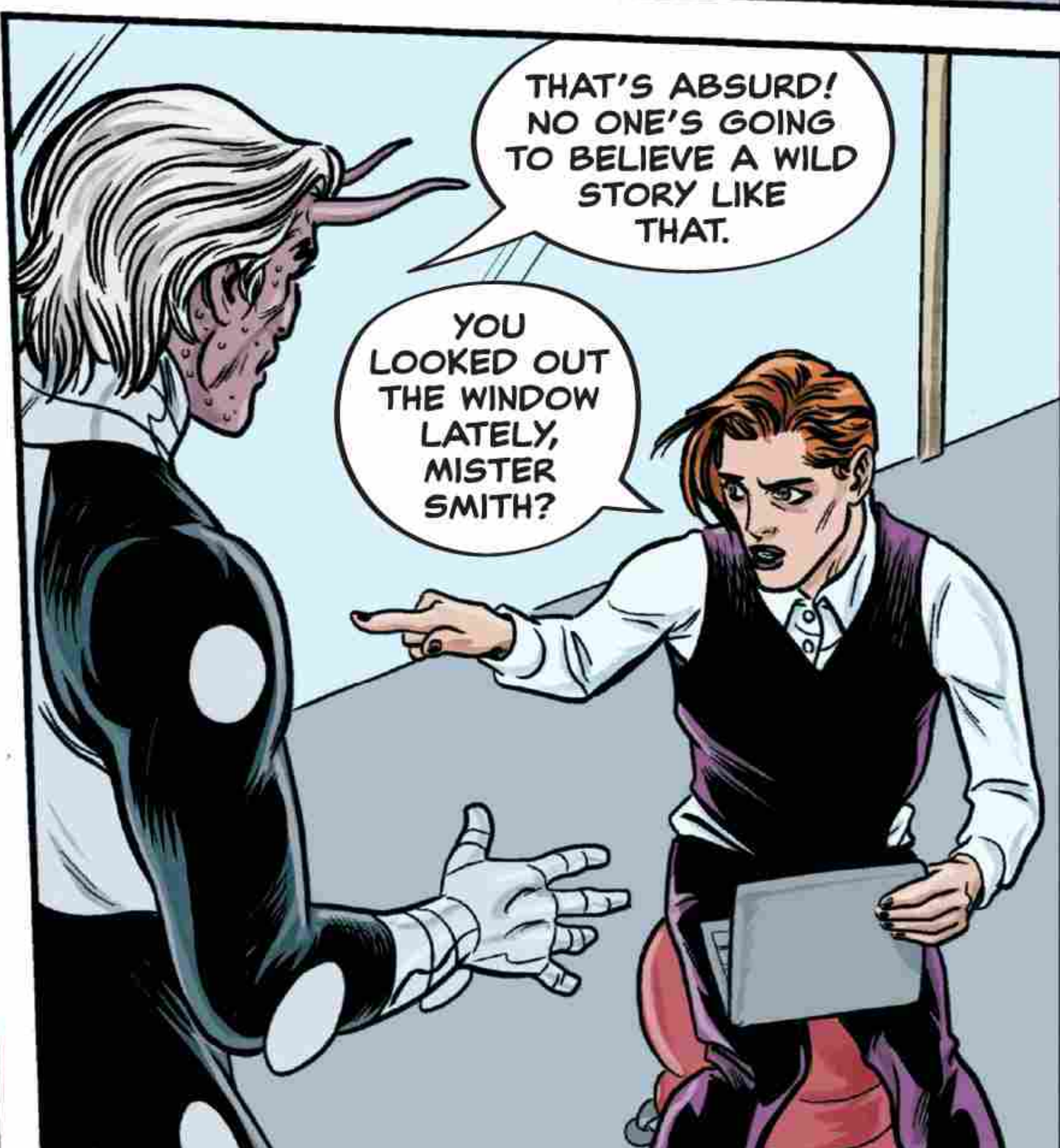


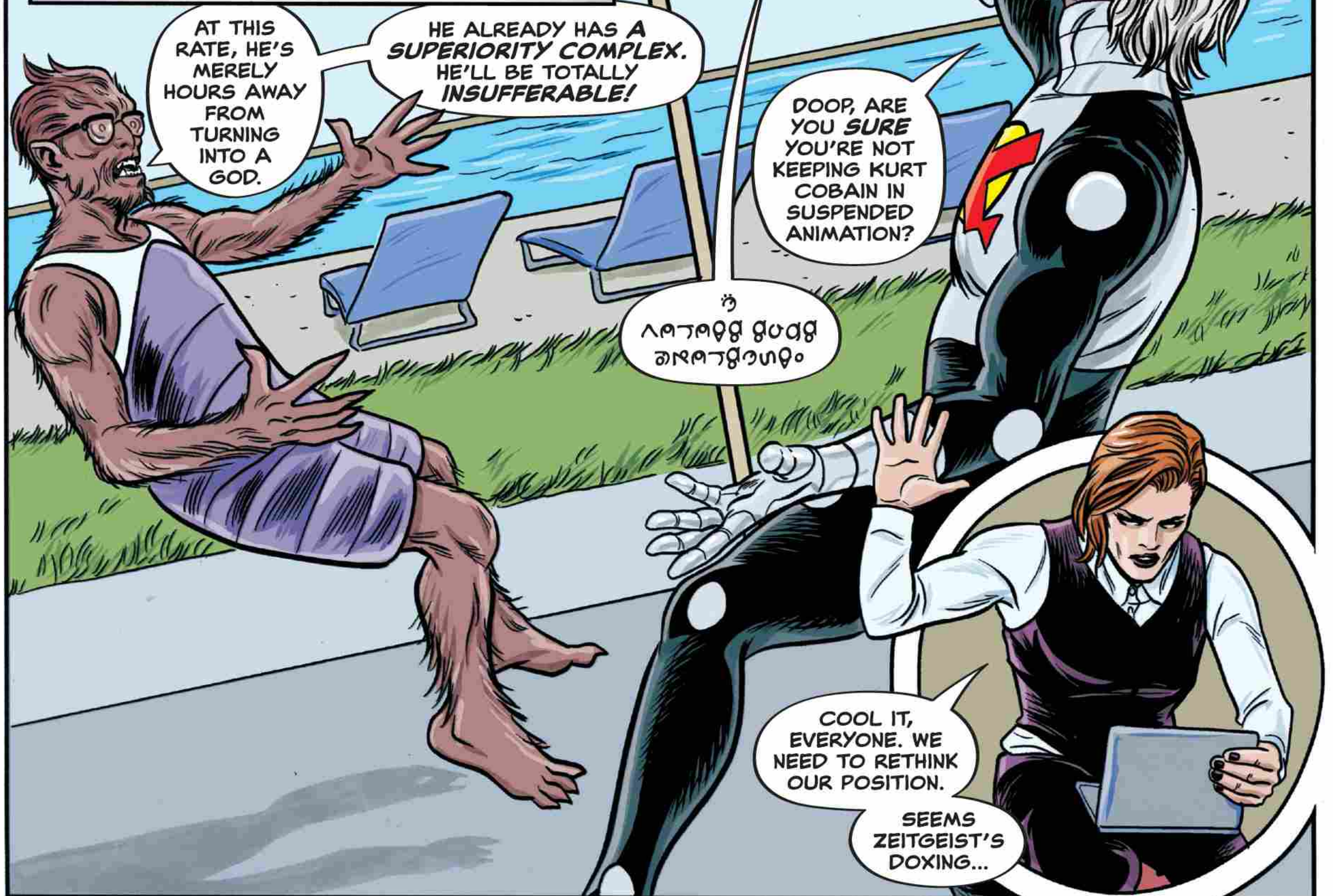
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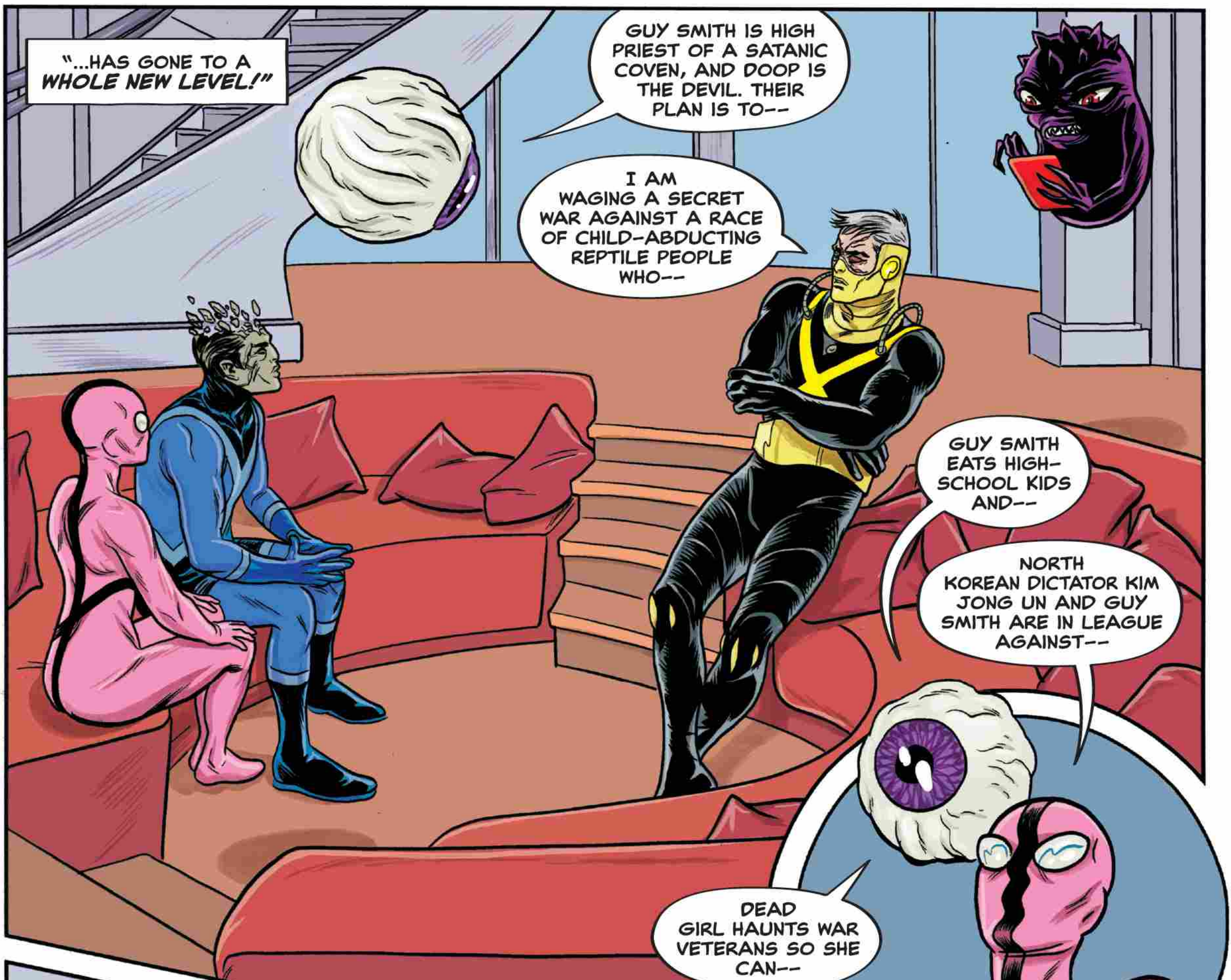
MY GOD!
THAT'S SO SIMPLE.
AND YET SO
BRILLIANT!

FINALLY...I'LL
BE RID OF THOSE
MEDDLESOME
HAS-BEENS.











I DON'T WANT ORIGINAL. I WANT HURTFUL. I WANT DAMAGING.

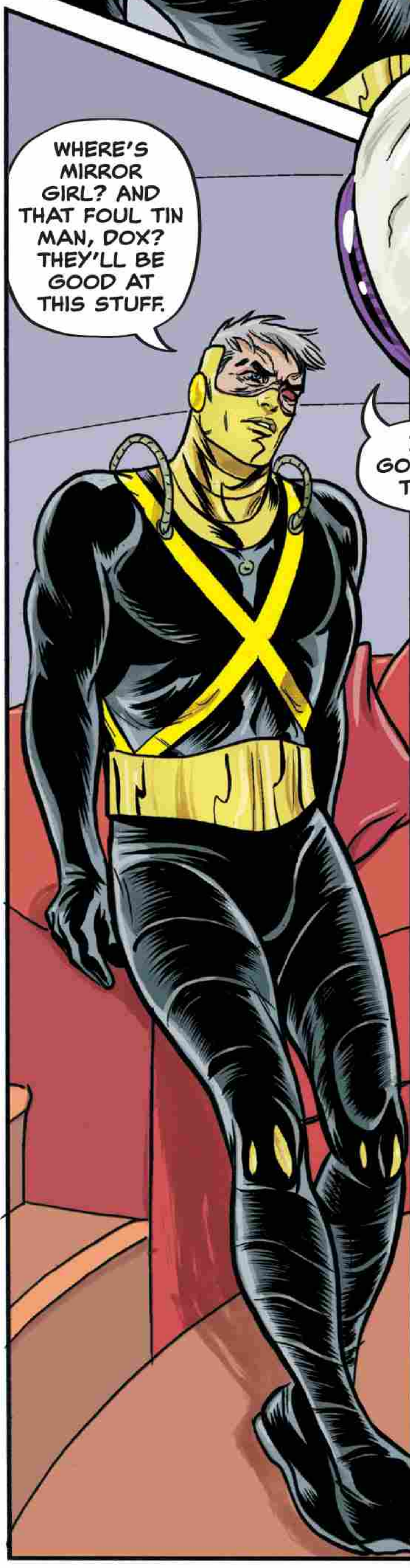
HE USUALLY HAS A WALL AROUND HIM...A CARAPACE THAT EVEN I CAN'T SEE THROUGH.



BUT FOR THE BRIEFEST MOMENT, I SEE ALL THE HURT THAT GOES INTO MAKING A PIECE OF WORK LIKE ZEITGEIST.

LOSING YOUR ENTIRE TEAM. LOSING EDIE SAWYER. LOSING THE MAN YOU USED TO BE.

IS THIS WHY HE FEELS THE NEED TO TREAT JENNY THE WAY HE DOES?



WHERE'S MIRROR GIRL? AND THAT FOUL TIN MAN, DOX? THEY'LL BE GOOD AT THIS STUFF.

I'LL GO FETCH THEM.



SUDDENLY, I'M WORRIED FOR JENNY.



NO. I'LL FIND THEM.

I SMELL SOMETHING IN THE AIR.



SUDDENLY, I'M WORRIED FOR US ALL.

IT'S LIKE RANCID MILK. AND YOU KNOW WHAT RANCID MILK SMELLS LIKE?

"TREASON!"

I'LL KEEP HIM TALKING, CLAIM I'VE DUG UP SOMETHING ABOUT GUY SMITH'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EDIE SAWYER.

WHEN YOU'RE CLOSE ENOUGH TO USE YOUR MIRROR ON HIM, WE'LL ATTACK.



AH! MY SENSORS DETECT THAT ZEITGEIST'S COMING. REMEMBER, ACT NORMAL. I'LL BE ROBOTIC, AND YOU BE PITIFUL.

M-MAYBE HE'S GUESSED WE'RE PLANNING TO ASSASSINATE HIM...A-AND HE'S COMING TO DO TO US WHAT HE DID TO POOR PIP.

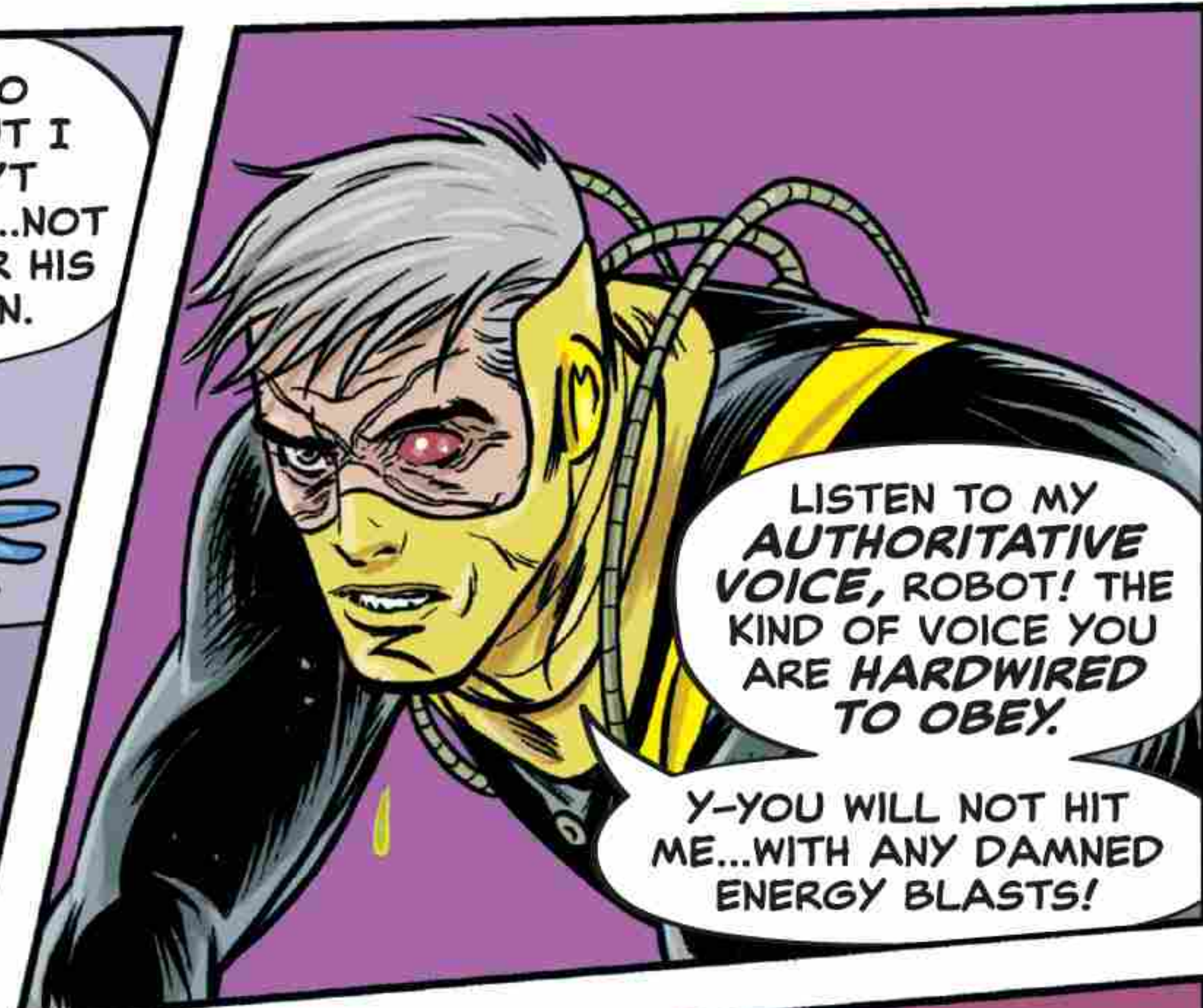
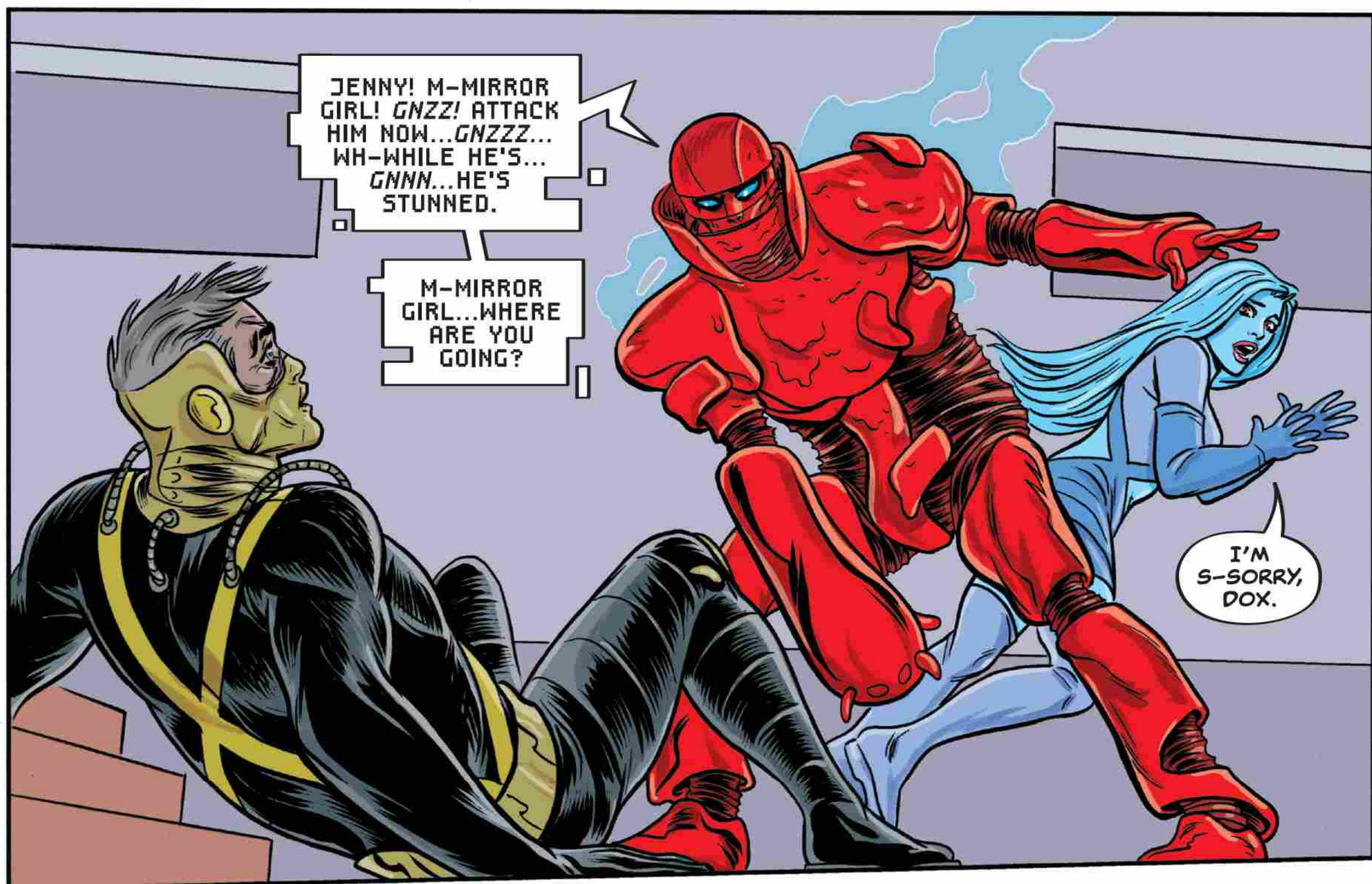
I DON'T THINK SO.

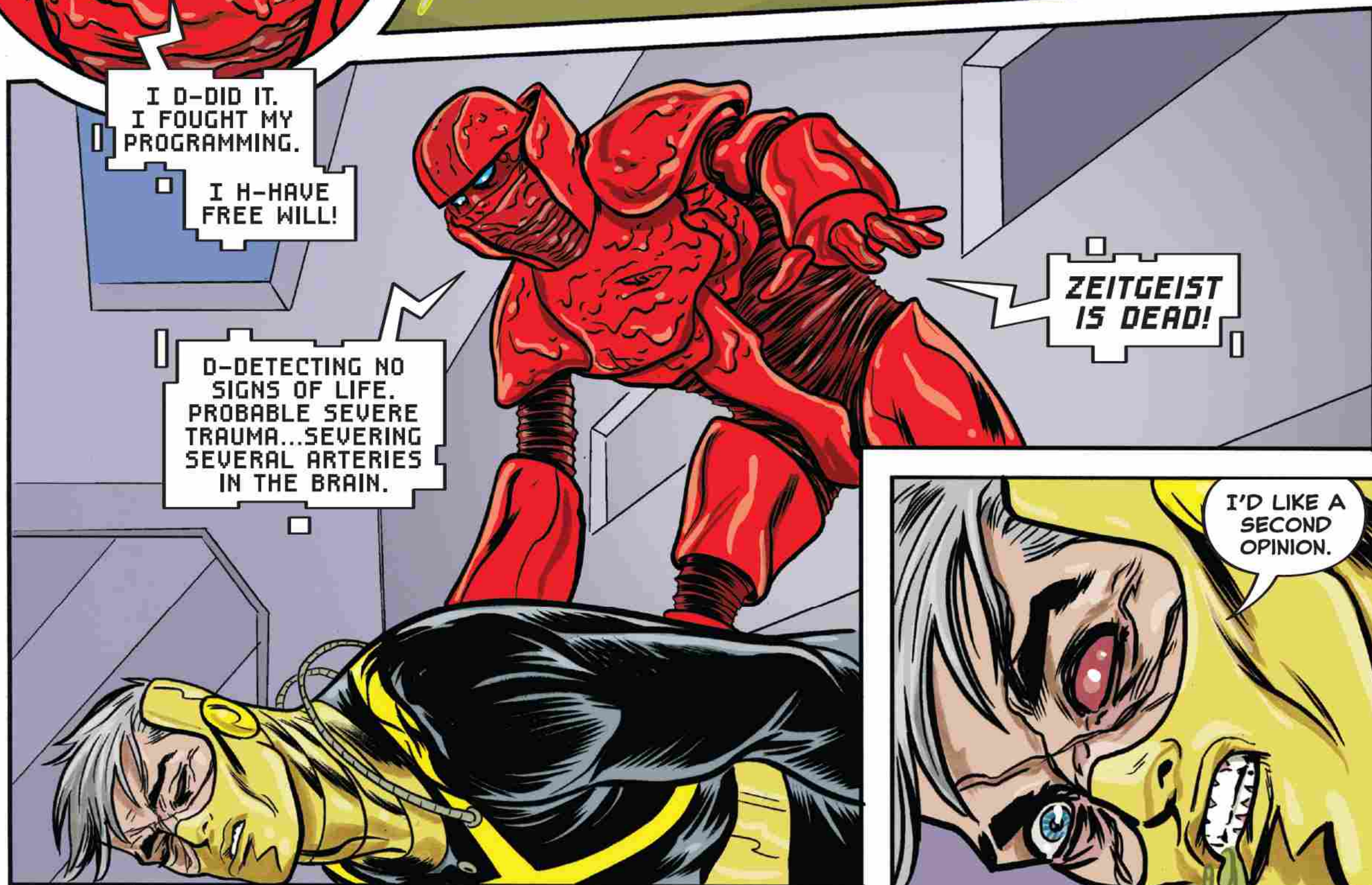
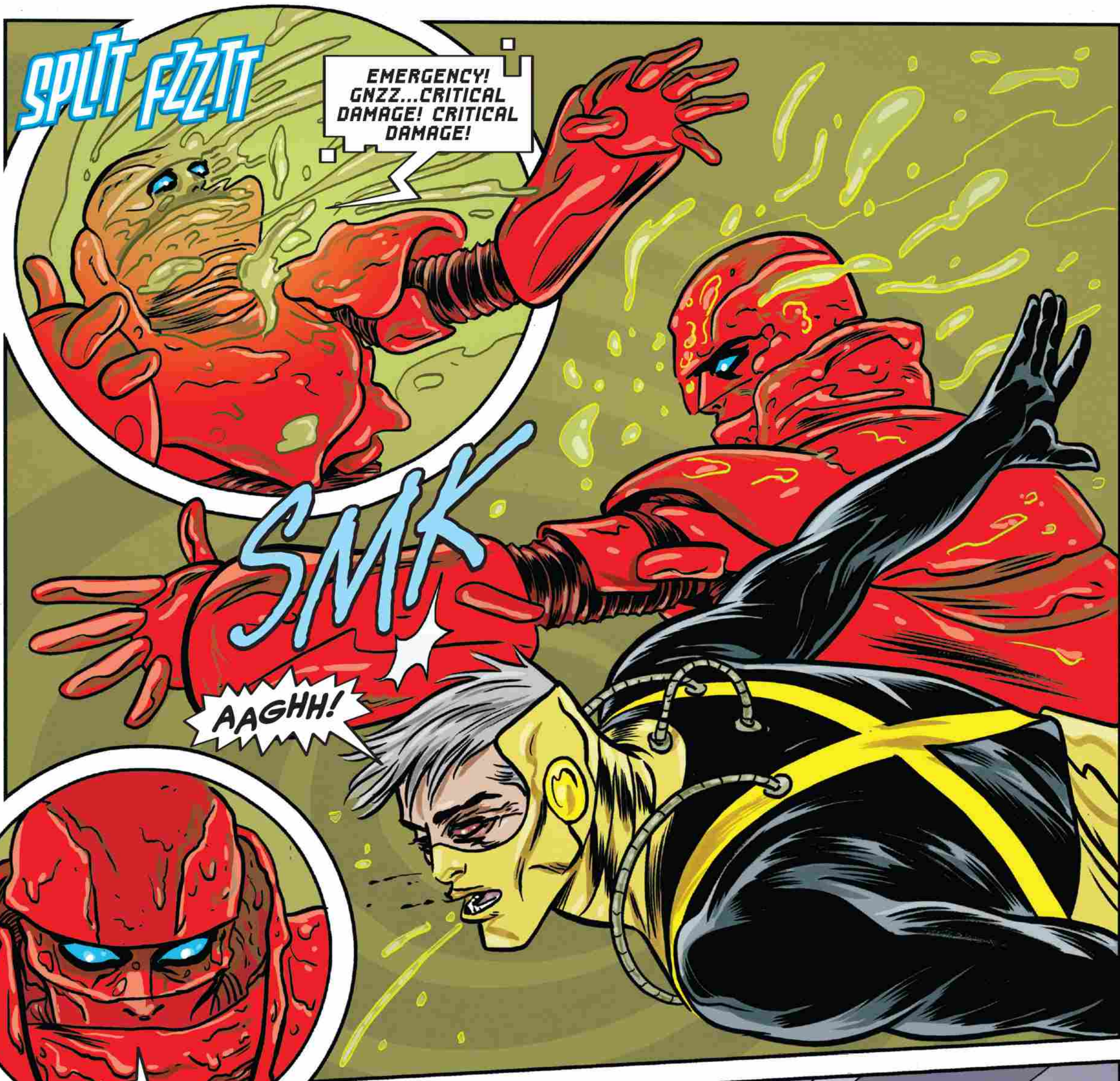
DOX, BE CAREFUL!

HAVE NO FEAR, JENNY. ZEITGEIST WON'T HURT ME. HE NEEDS ME.

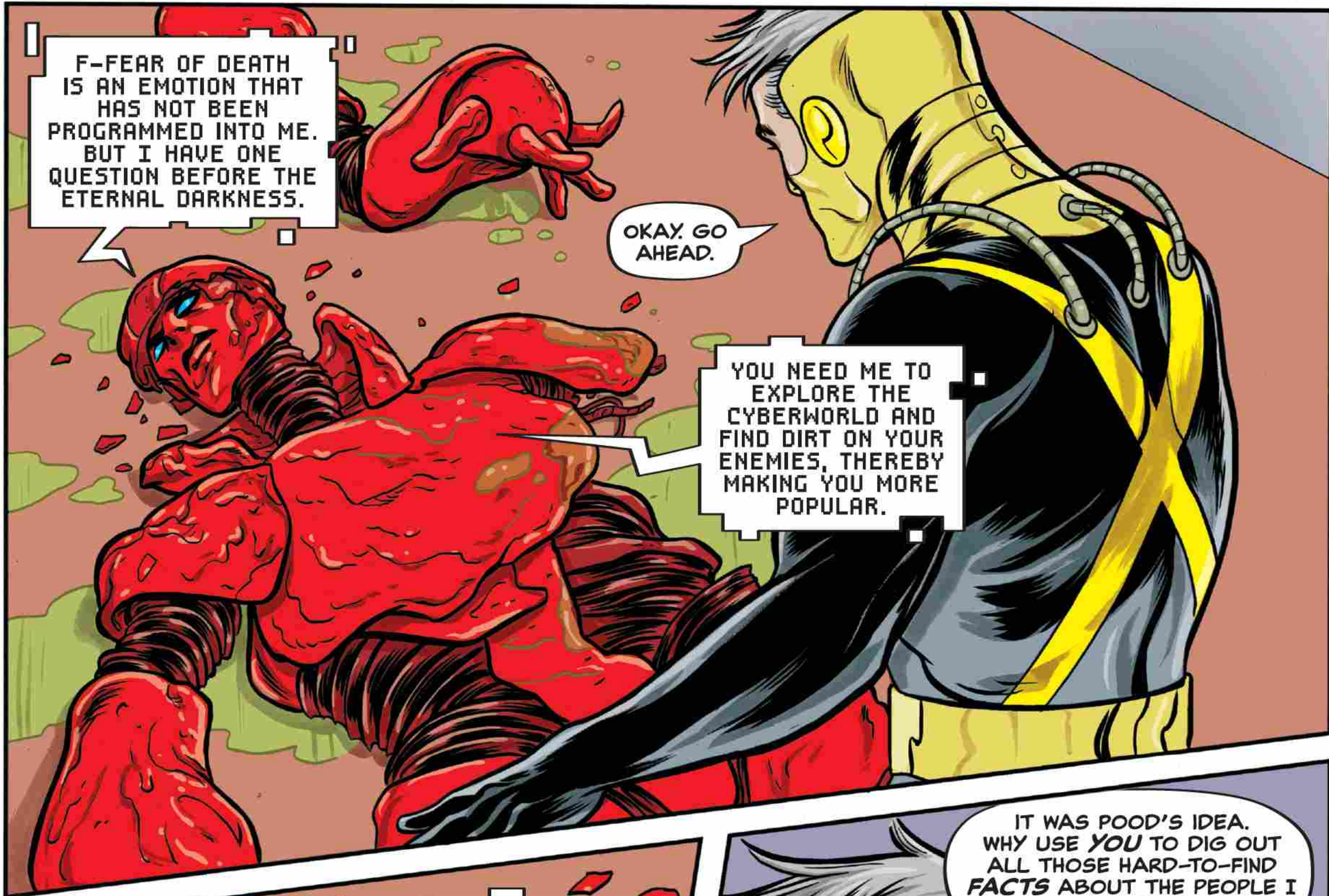












F-FEAR OF DEATH
IS AN EMOTION THAT
HAS NOT BEEN
PROGRAMMED INTO ME.
BUT I HAVE ONE
QUESTION BEFORE THE
ETERNAL DARKNESS.

OKAY. GO
AHEAD.

YOU NEED ME TO
EXPLORE THE
CYBERWORLD AND
FIND DIRT ON YOUR
ENEMIES, THEREBY
MAKING YOU MORE
POPULAR.

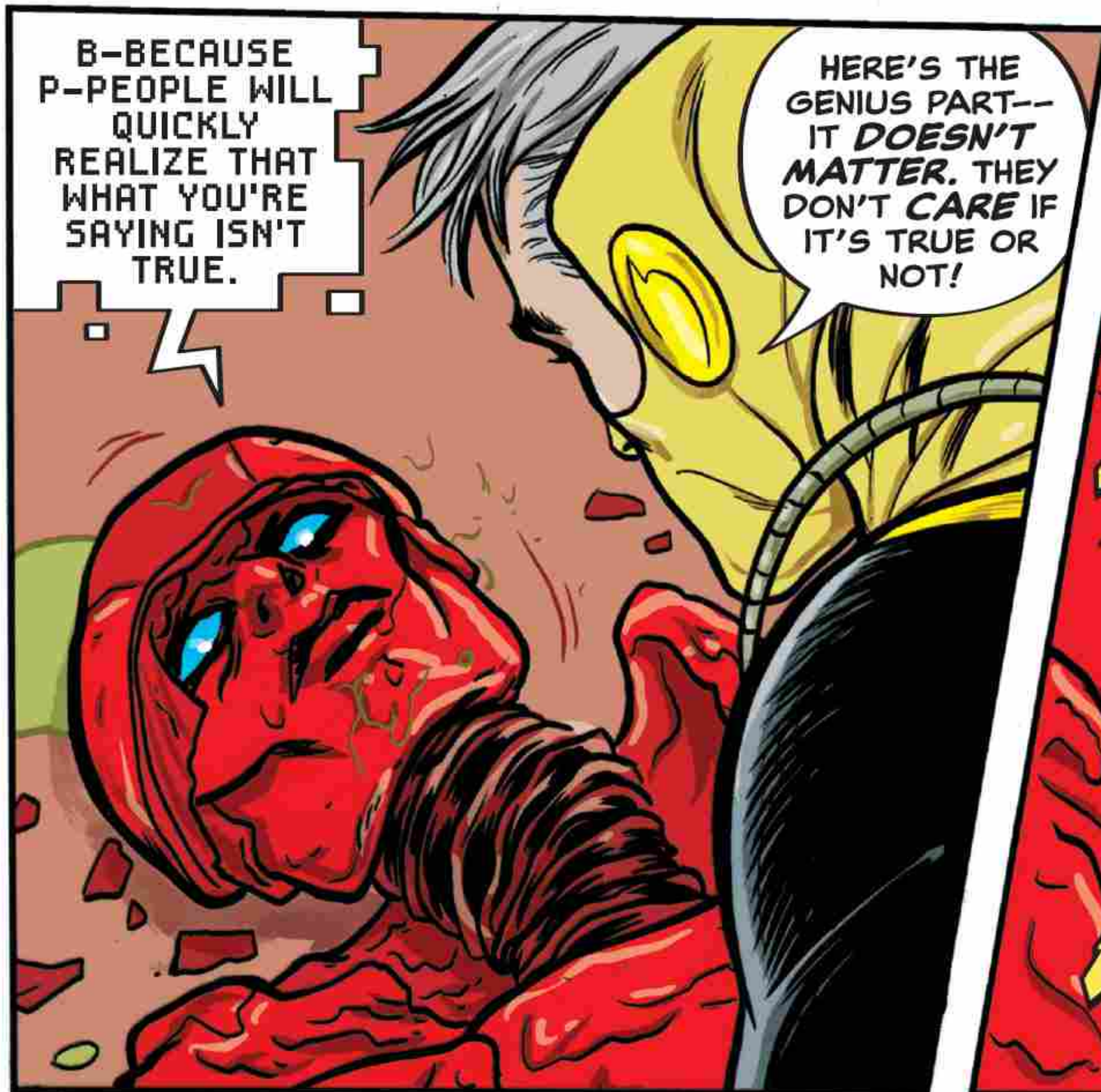


SO IF YOU NEED
ME, WHY ARE YOU
KILLING ME?



IT WAS POOD'S IDEA.
WHY USE *YOU* TO DIG OUT
ALL THOSE HARD-TO-FIND
FACTS ABOUT THE PEOPLE I
WANT TO HURT? **FACTS** ARE
SO **YESTERDAY**.

WHY
NOT JUST
**MAKE
STUFF
UP?**

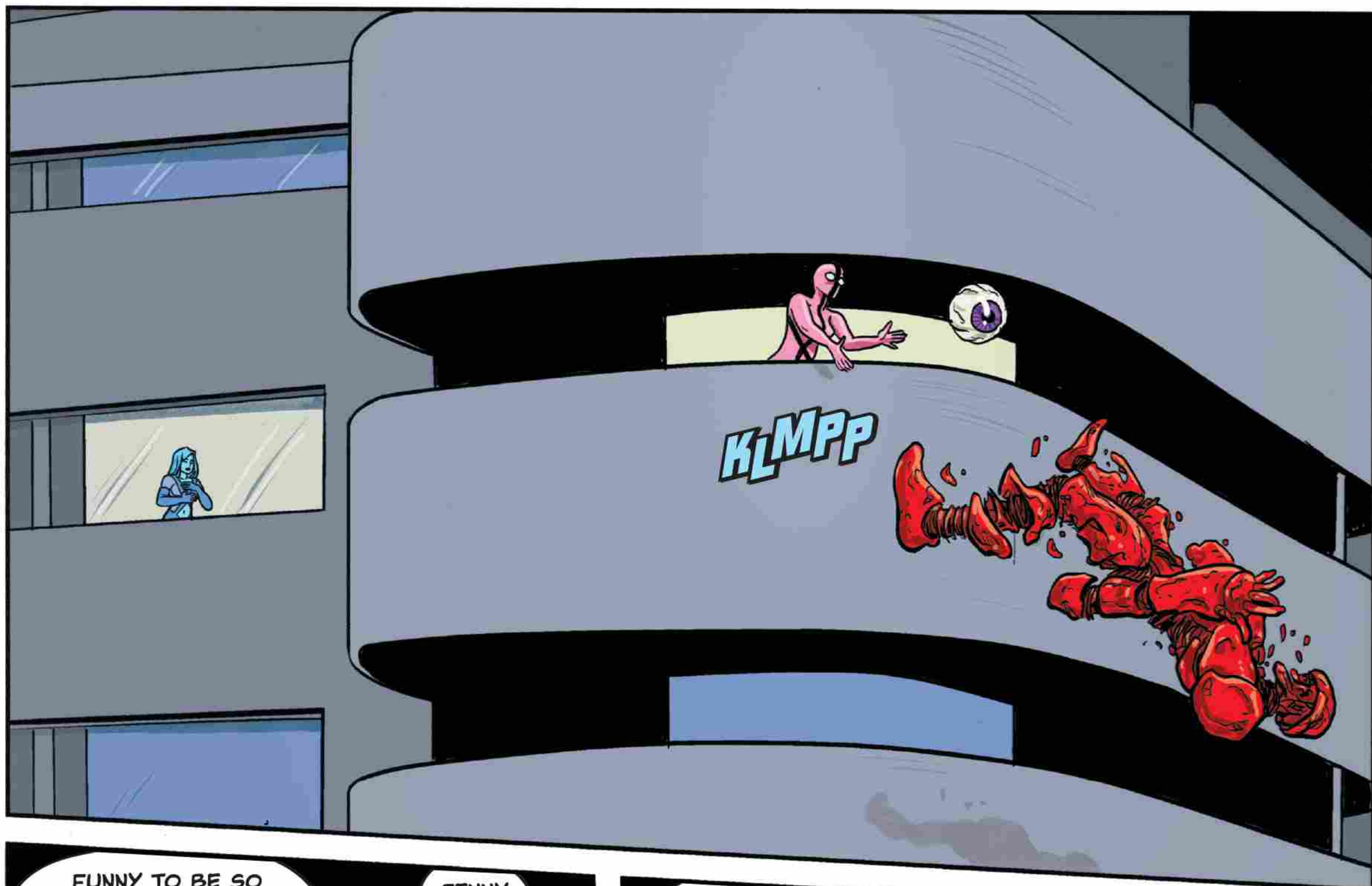


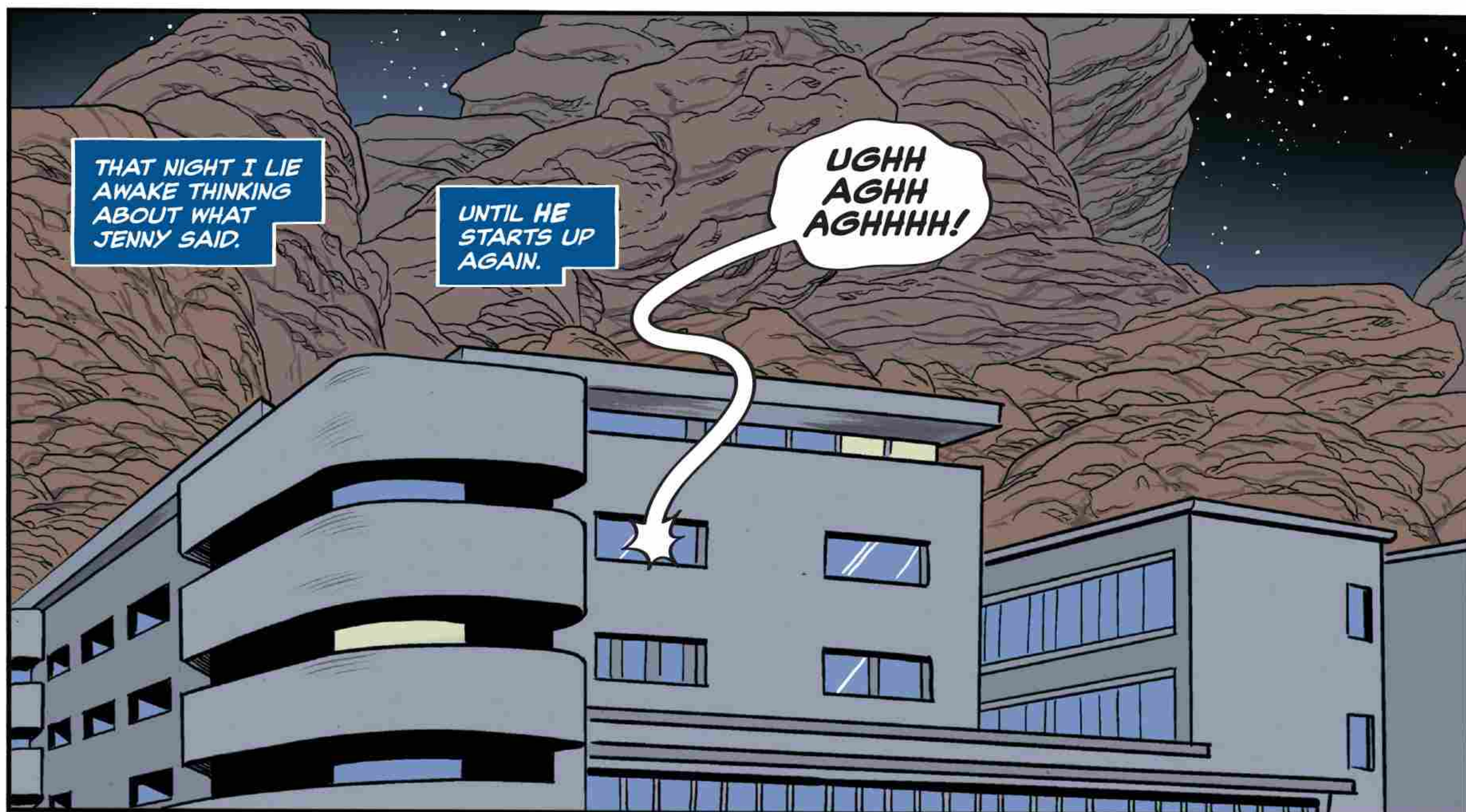
B-BECAUSE
P-PEOPLE WILL
QUICKLY
REALIZE THAT
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING ISN'T
TRUE.

HERE'S THE
GENIUS PART--
IT **DOESN'T**
MATTER. THEY
DON'T **CARE** IF
IT'S TRUE OR
NOT!



WELCOME TO
MODERNITY!





THAT NIGHT I LIE
AWAKE THINKING
ABOUT WHAT
JENNY SAID.

UNTIL HE
STARTS UP
AGAIN.

UGHH
AGHH
AGHHHHH!

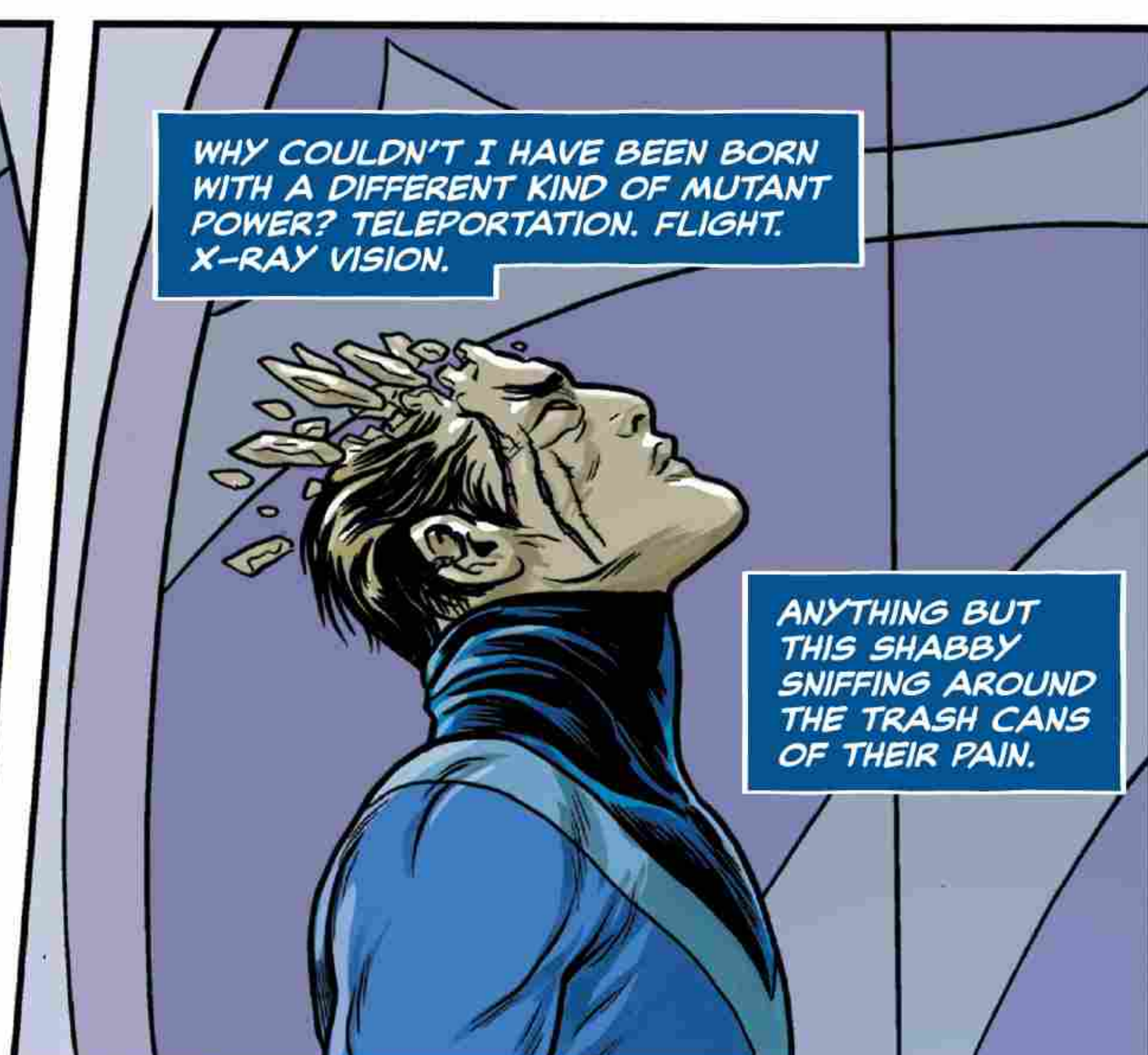


WHY DO I HAVE TO
ENJOY IT SO MUCH?

UHH...
OH...
UHH...

THE SWEAT AND
SHUDDER OF
THEIR AGONY.

TO TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH, I
DISGUST
MYSELF.



WHY COULDN'T I HAVE BEEN BORN
WITH A DIFFERENT KIND OF MUTANT
POWER? TELEPORTATION. FLIGHT.
X-RAY VISION.

ANYTHING BUT
THIS SHABBY
SNIFFING AROUND
THE TRASH CANS
OF THEIR PAIN.



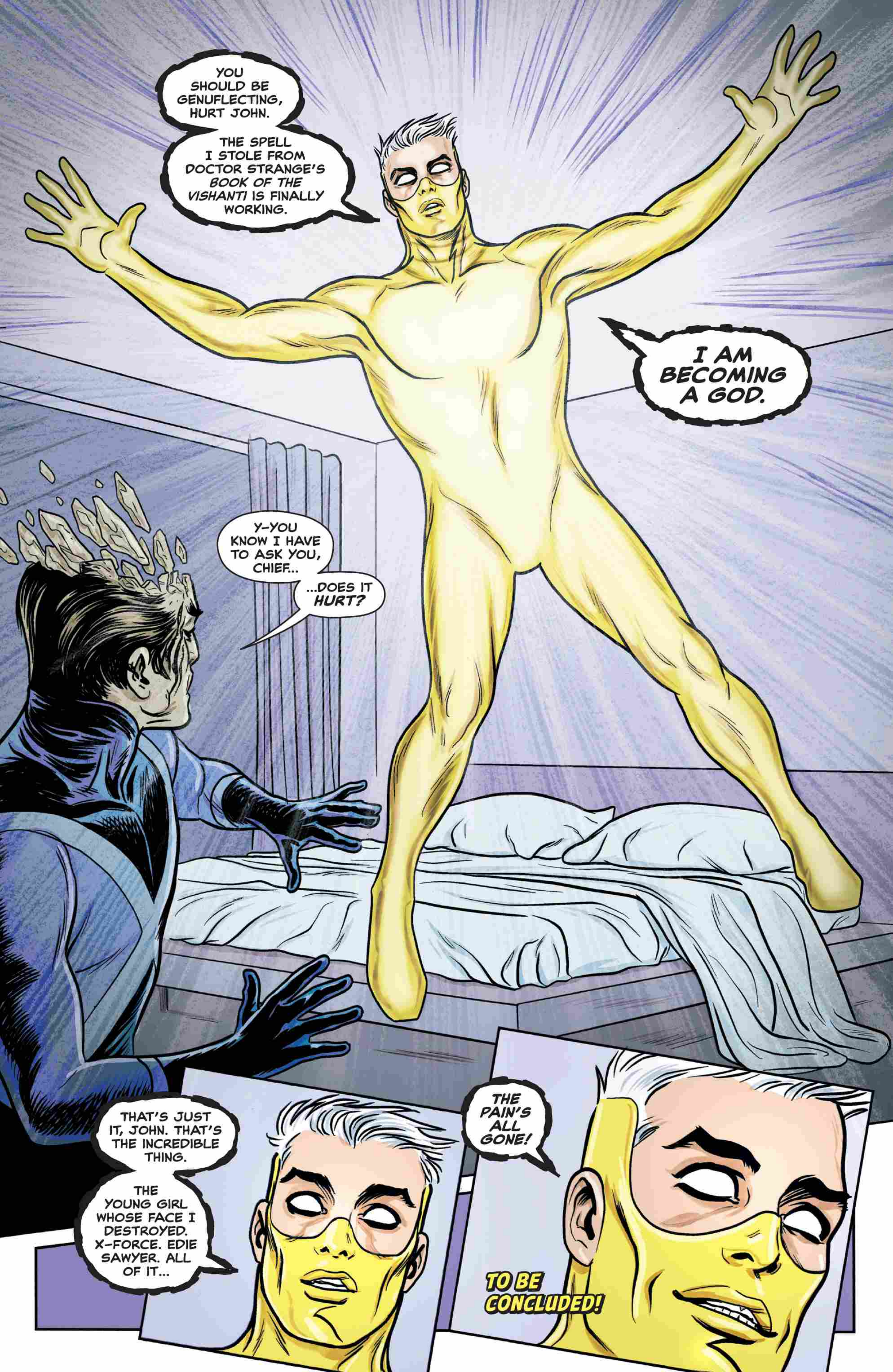
I DECIDE TO
CALL IT A NIGHT.

HELLO,
CHIEF. I
HEARD
YOU...



click

...SCREAMING?



YOU
SHOULD BE
GENUFLECTING,
HURT JOHN.

THE SPELL
I STOLE FROM
DOCTOR STRANGE'S
BOOK OF THE
VISHANTI IS FINALLY
WORKING.

I AM
BECOMING
A GOD.

Y-YOU
KNOW I HAVE
TO ASK YOU,
CHIEF...

...DOES IT
HURT?

THAT'S JUST
IT, JOHN. THAT'S
THE INCREDIBLE
THING.

THE
YOUNG GIRL
WHOSE FACE I
DESTROYED.
X-FORCE. EDIE
SAWYER. ALL
OF IT...

THE
PAIN'S
ALL
GONE!

**TO BE
CONCLUDED!**

NEXT

All hail your new god, Zeitgeist! With his new powers and zealots at his side, the X-Statix don't stand a chance! But an old friend is about to shake up the status quo... Don't miss the dramatic finale of these superstar heroes!





ZONE